

# High-throughput image-based shoot phenotyping at OloPhen

---

Lukáš Spíchal

*Department of Chemical Biology and Genetics, Centre of the Region Haná  
for Biotechnological and Agricultural Research, Palacký University in  
Olomouc, Czech Republic*



# ACZPPN

CZECH PLANT PHENOTYPING NETWORK



- High-throughput bioassaying in controlled conditions
- Development of protocols and specialized software for image analysis and data processing
- Field trials and field phenotyping

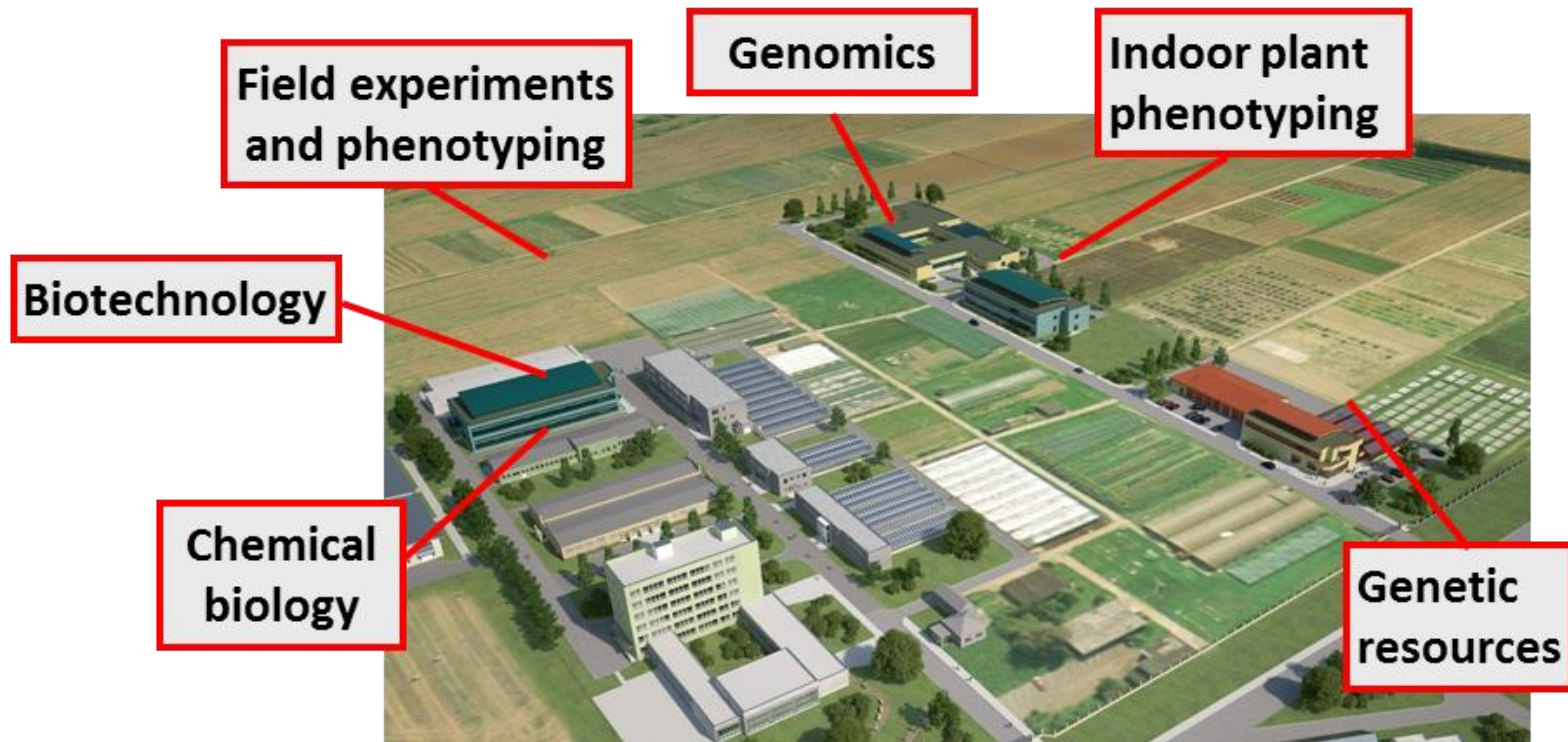


- Development of scientific instruments for research in biological and agricultural sciences
- Development and manufacturing innovative technology for cultivation of plants and for non-invasive complex analysis of various plant traits in fully automated manner



- Generating basic knowledge on the molecular mechanisms allowing integration of various signaling pathways
- Development and implementation of technologies to improve plant stress tolerance
- Phenotyping on cellular and tissue level

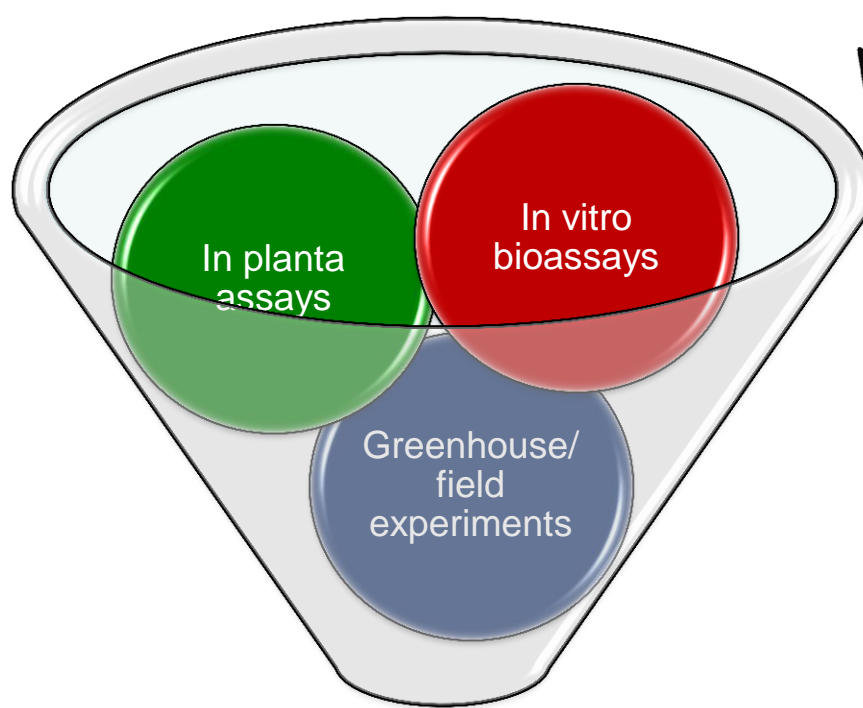
# Centre of the Region Haná for Biotechnological and Agricultural Research, UPOL



- Development and testing of new plant growth regulators
- Development and implementation of protocols for HTS and large-scale bioassaying and indoor phenotyping
- Field trials and field phenotyping

# OloPhen

## Automated bioassaying and phenotyping pipe-line

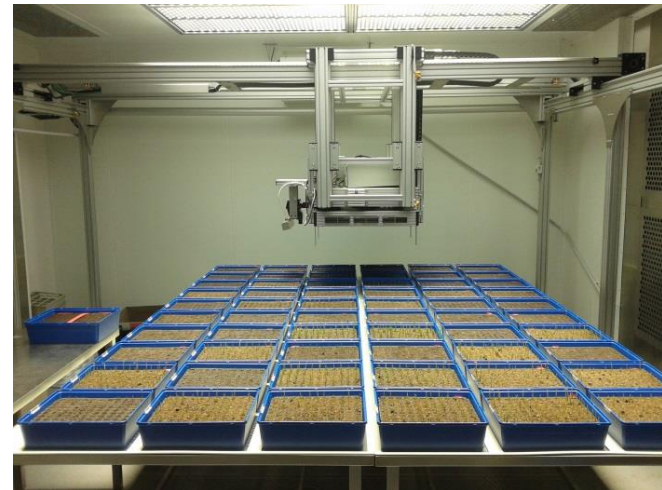


Identification of new  
plant growth  
regulators and their  
mode of action

- In vitro bioassays
- In planta assays
- Integrative phenotyping
- Greenhouse/field experiments
- Transcriptomics
- Metabolomic profiling

- High-throughput
- Automation
- Non-invasive methods

- Controlled conditions
- plant growth sensor (RGB top view high-resolution camera with homogenous LED lightning)
- sensors of physiological responses:
  - FluorCam unit – Chl flurescence kinetic analysis
  - hyperspectral unit (VIS 380-1000 nm)
- capacity: 7.5 square metres (480 culture multiwell plates, 60 trays, 1200 standardized Arabidopsis pots )

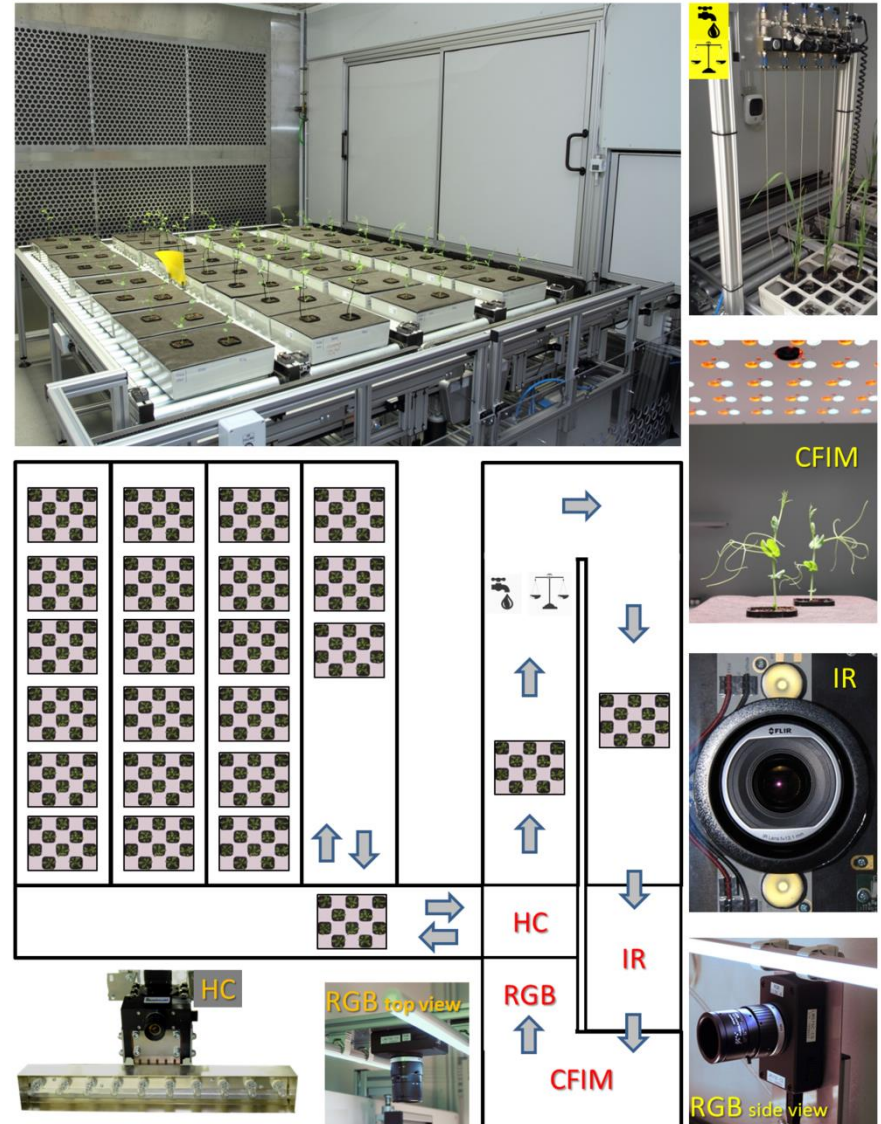


# OloPhen

## Conveyor PlantScreen™ system

- Controlled conditions
- three RGB cameras, FluorCam, thermoimaging, hyperspectral imaging (1000-2500 nm), acclimation cabinet, automatized pot weighing and watering
- capacity: 640 plants for top-view experiments, 64-32 plants for three-views experiments

Humplík JF, Lazar D, Husičková A, Spíchal L (2015) Automated phenotyping of plant shoots using imaging methods for analysis of plant stress responses – a review. *Plant Methods*, 11:29.



# Automated bioassaying and phenotyping pipe-line

## We test

- genotypes
- Compound libraries
- Extracts
- Compounds/mixtures
- PGPR
- microbes
- VCs
- ...
- Commercial products
  - Series
  - Libraries
  - Batches
  - ...
- Way of application
  - Seed treatment
  - drench
  - foliar

## In vitro bioassays

- Hormone signaling response
- Seed germination
- Shoot growth response

## In planta assays

- Crop emergence
- Early development
- Shoot growth and physiology

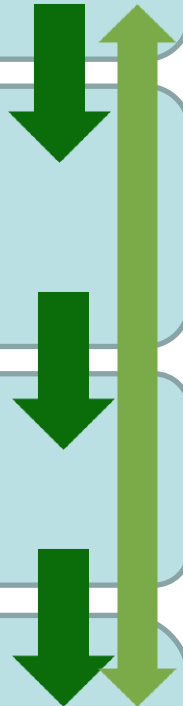
## Greenhouse/field experiments

- Yield parameters
- Plant physiology

## Metabolomic profiling

- Amino acids
- Plant hormones
- Phenolic compounds
- Polyamines

## Transcriptomics



# Automated bioassaying and phenotyping pipe-line

---

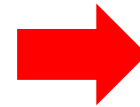
In vitro bioassays

In planta assays

Greenhouse/field experiments

Metabolomic profiling

Transcriptomics



Identification of new plant growth regulators/biostimulants and their mode of action

- In normal conditions
- In stress conditions
  - Salt
  - Drought
  - Temperature
  - Light intensity
  - Nutrients



# In vitro bioassays

- Hormone signaling response
- Seed germination
- Shoot growth response

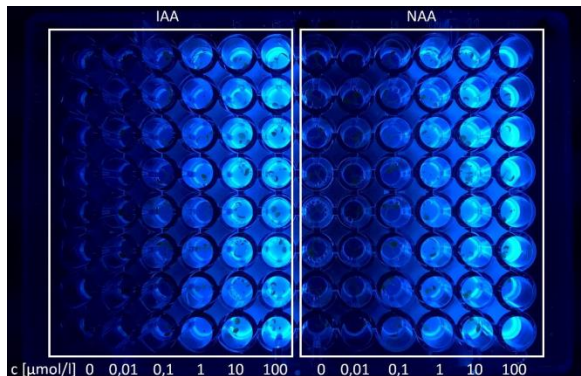
## Characteristics:

- Fast (in days)
- High-throughput (hundreds of variants)
  - Time series design (kinetic)
  - High number of combinations
  - High number of replicates
  - Population behavior
  - Statistical approaches

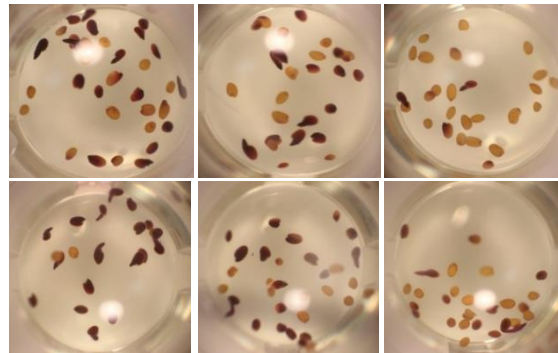
## Using multiwell plates

- 6-, 24-, 48-, 96-well plates
- Non-invasive simple readout

Hormone signaling response



Seed germination



Shoot growth response



# In vitro bioassays – Shoot growth response

- Analyses of effect on shoot area of *Arabidopsis*
  - Stimulation/Inhibition of shoot growth
  - normal conditions / Interaction with stress conditions
    - Salt, temperature, nutrition, drought

## METHODS ARTICLE

Front. Plant Sci., 04 October 2017 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2017.01702>

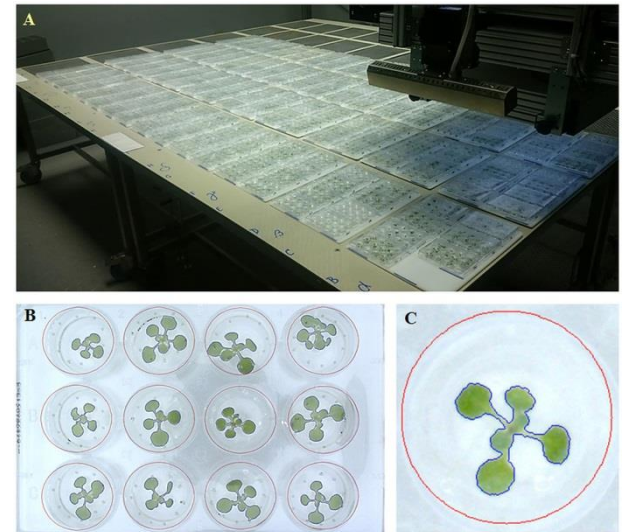


## An Automated Method for High-Throughput Screening of *Arabidopsis* Rosette Growth in Multi-Well Plates and Its Validation in Stress Conditions

✉ Nuria De Diego<sup>1</sup>, ✉ Tomáš Fůrst<sup>1</sup>, ✉ Jan F. Humplík<sup>1,2</sup>, ✉ Lydia Ugena<sup>1</sup>, ✉ Kateřina Podlešáková<sup>1</sup> and ✉ Lukáš Spíchal<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemical Biology and Genetics, Centre of the Region Haná for Biotechnological and Agricultural Research, Faculty of Science, Palacký University, Olomouc, Czechia

<sup>2</sup>Laboratory of Growth Regulators, Centre of the Region Haná for Biotechnological and Agricultural Research, Institute of Experimental Botany, Czech Academy of Sciences, Olomouc, Czechia



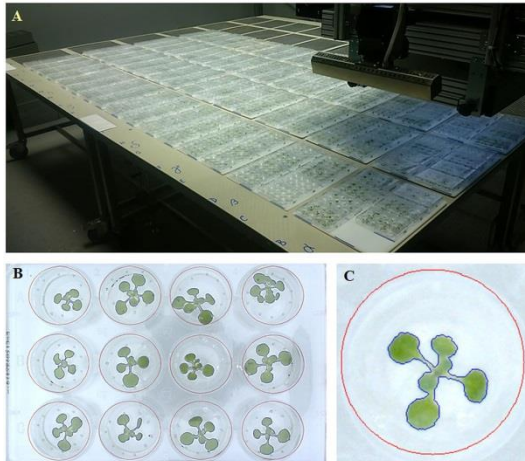
„This approach will allow simultaneous testing of a large number of potentially bioactive compounds in a wide range of concentrations and/or genotypes, under various growth conditions.“ (De Diego et al., 2017)



## Characterization of Biostimulant Mode of Action Using Novel Multi-Trait High-Throughput Screening of *Arabidopsis* Germination and Rosette Growth

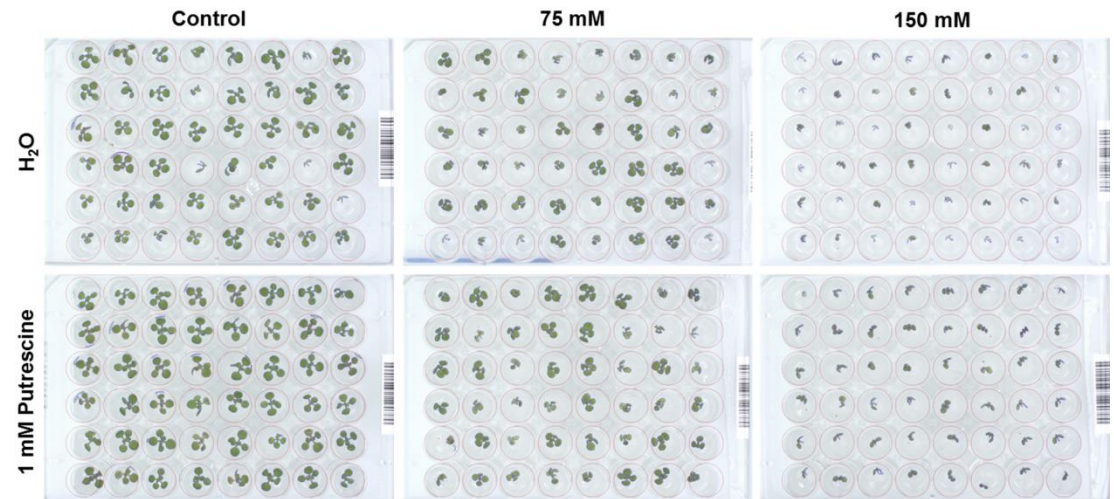
Lydia Ugena<sup>1†</sup>, Adéla Hýřlová<sup>1†</sup>, Kateřina Podlešáková<sup>1</sup>, Jan F. Humplík<sup>1,2</sup>, Karel Doležal<sup>1</sup>, Nuria De Diego<sup>1\*</sup> and Lukáš Spíchal<sup>1</sup>

6-, 12-, 24-well plates



De Diego et al., 2017

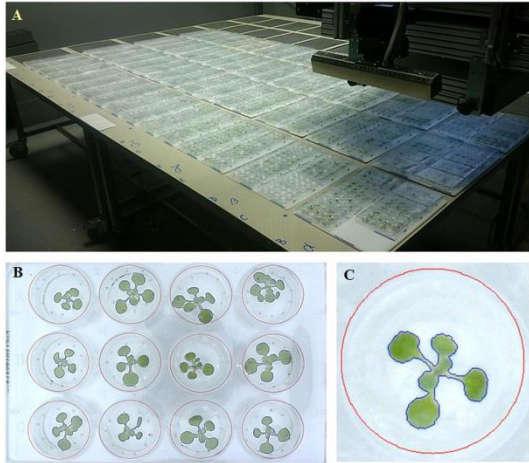
48-well plates



Ugena et al., 2018

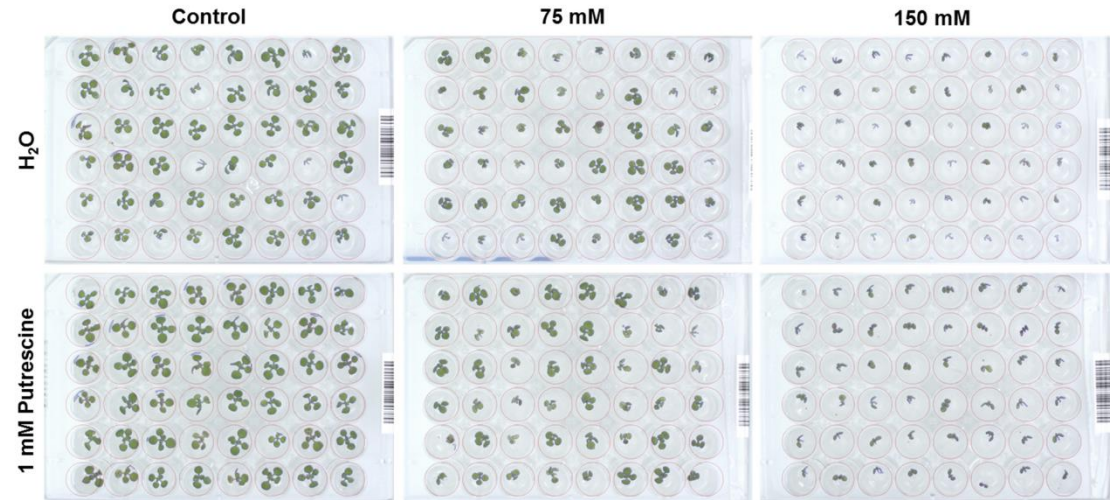
# Top view imaging system XYZ PlantScreen™

6-, 12-, 24-well plates



De Diego et al., 2017

48-well plates



Ugena et al., 2018

Type of well plate	No. plants	Replicates	Platform capacity	Total plants	No. variants	Assay duration
6-Well Plates	6	3	480 Plates	2880	160	14 days
12-Well Plates	12	2		5760	240	9 days
24-Well plates	24	1		11520	480	9 days

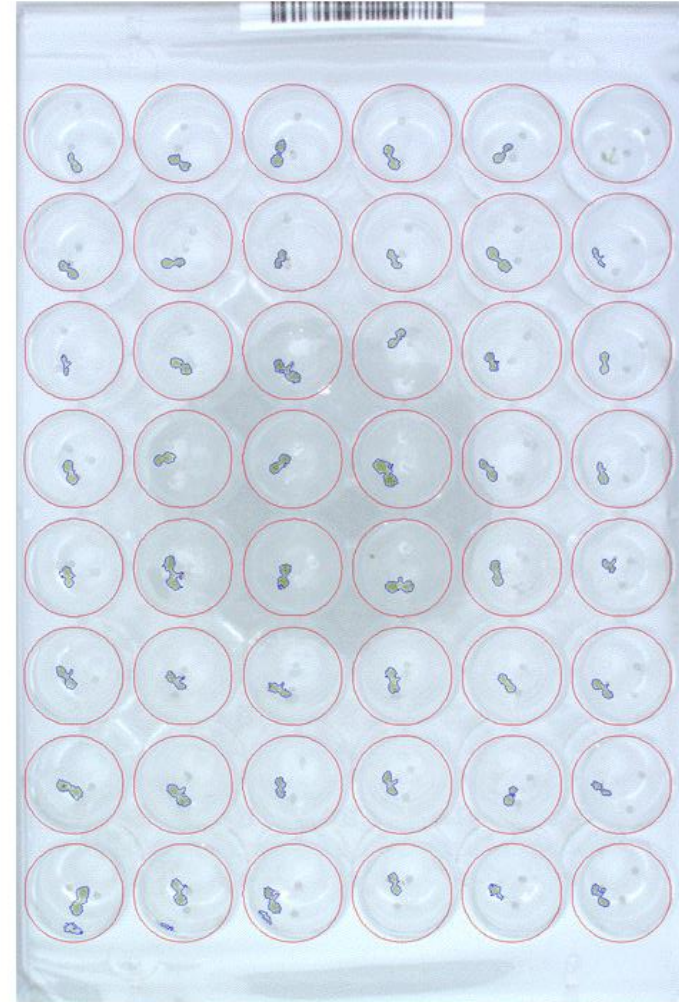
48-well plates

23040 plants

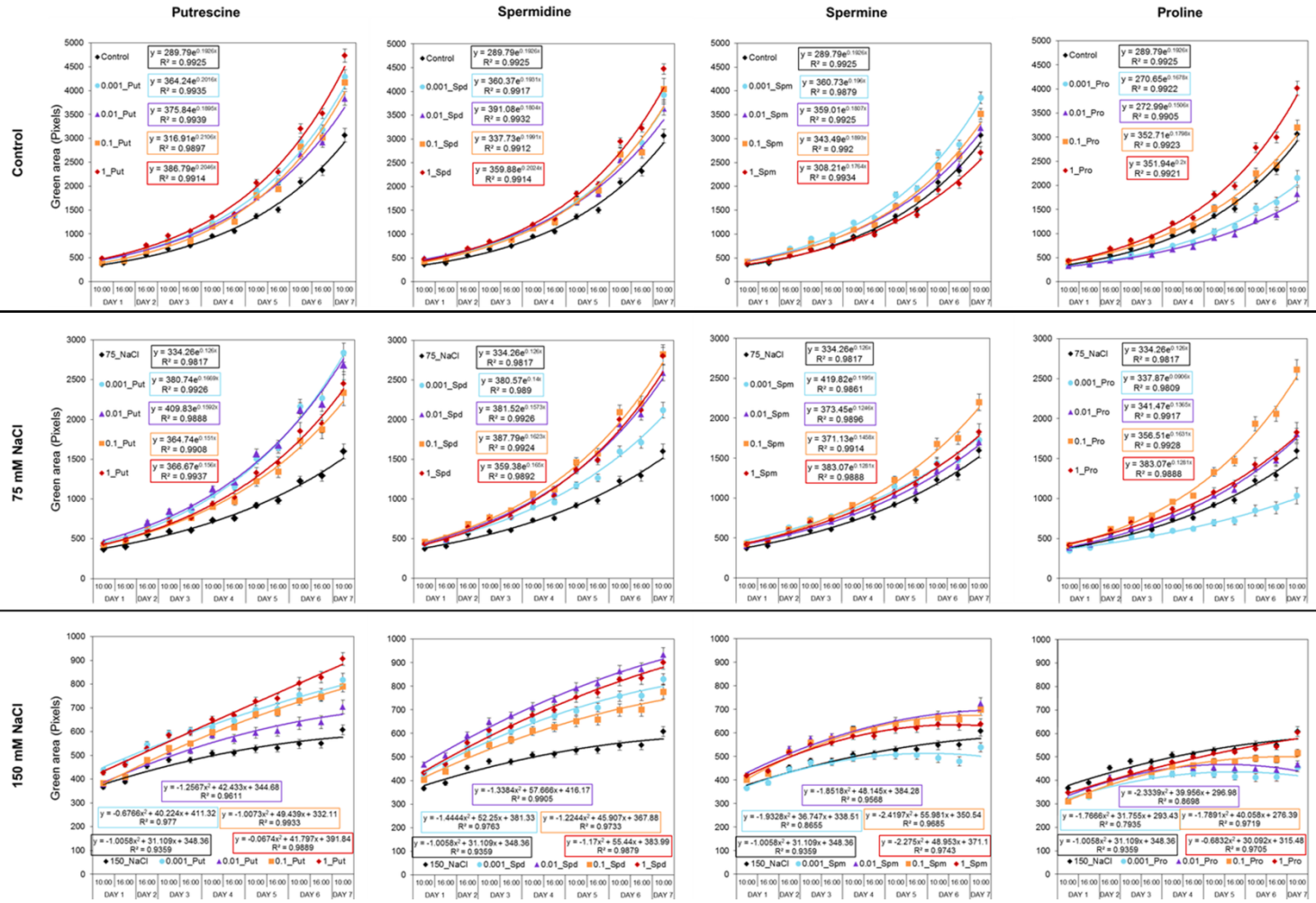
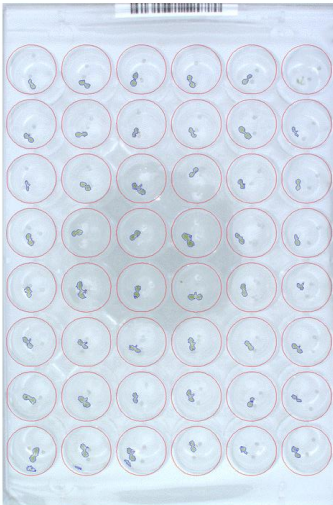
7 days

# In vitro bioassays – Shoot growth response

---



# In vitro bioassays – Shoot growth response

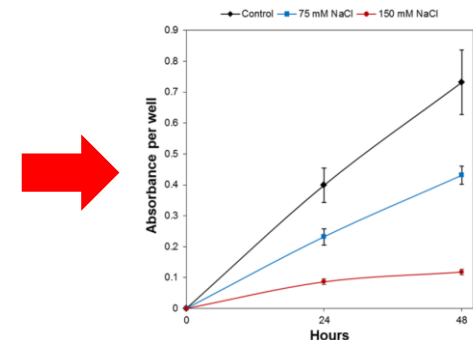
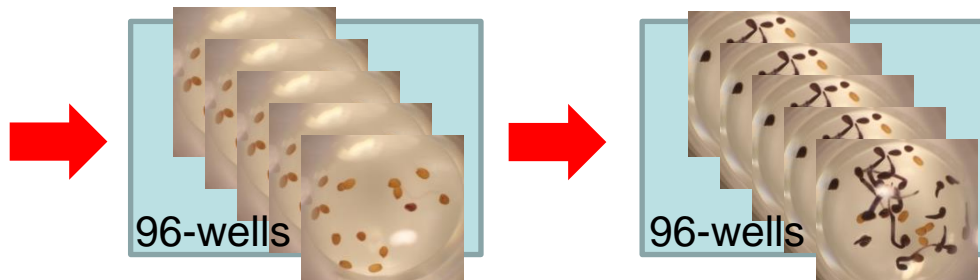


4 cpds x 4 concentrations x 3 conditions = 48 variants (2.304 plants)

# In vitro bioassays – Seed germination

- Analyses of effect on seed germination of Arabidopsis
  - Stimulation
  - Inhibition
  - In normal conditions
  - Interaction with stress conditions
    - Salt, temperature, heavy metals
- Using 96-well plates and robotic pipetting station
- Seed counting and non-invasive colorimetric readout (MTT reduction)
- Time/concentration-dependent response curve (80 seeds per variant)

- Time/concentration-dependent response is analyzed
- In normal/stress conditions



# Multi-trait high-throughput screening of *Arabidopsis* germination and rosette growth

**MTHTS**



**Traits:**

Germination rate  
Early seedling establishment  
Growth capacity  
Leaf colour index



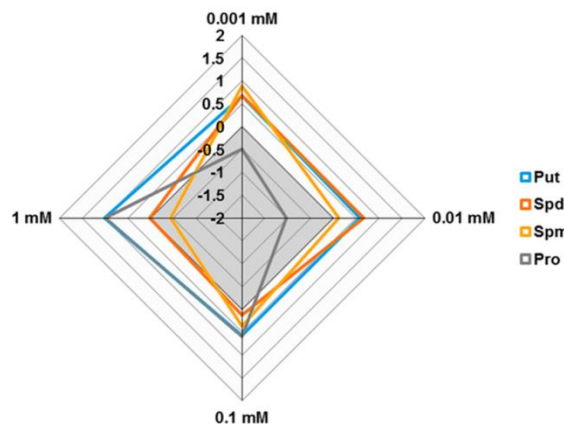
**Plant  
Biostimulant  
Characterization  
Index (PBC)**

PBC index- Control				
Concentration	Put	Spd	Spm	Pro
0.001 mM	0.67	0.68	0.89	-0.49
0.01 mM	0.58	0.66	0.12	-1.03
0.1 mM	0.57	0.12	0.37	0.59
1 mM	1.01	0.02	-0.44	0.99

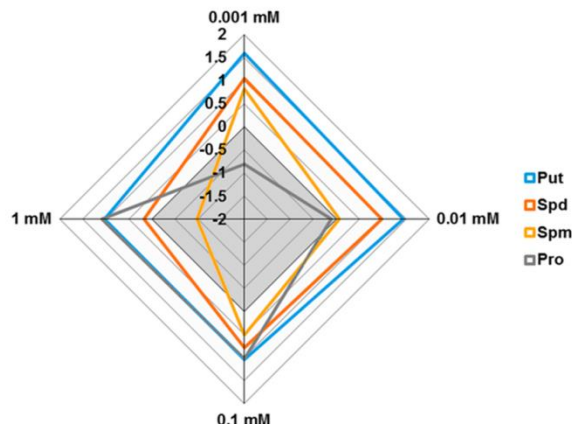
PBC index- 75 mM NaCl				
Concentration	Put	Spd	Spm	Pro
0.001 mM	1.59	1.04	0.82	-0.81
0.01 mM	1.44	0.98	0.06	-0.12
0.1 mM	1.04	0.78	0.51	1.03
1 mM	1.03	0.17	-0.98	1.08

PBC index- 150 mM NaCl				
Concentration	Put	Spd	Spm	Pro
0.001 mM	1.27	1.24	0.27	-0.55
0.01 mM	1.28	1.17	1.00	-0.31
0.1 mM	1.44	1.05	0.86	0.62
1 mM	1.70	0.89	-0.09	0.90

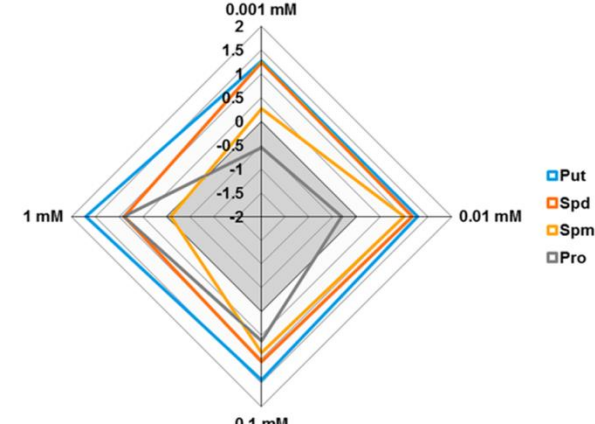
**A**



**B**



**C**





# Automated bioassaying and phenotyping pipe-line

## We test

- genotypes
- Compound libraries
- Extracts
- Compounds/mixtures
- PGPR
- microbes
- VCs
- ...
- Commercial products
  - Series
  - Libraries
  - Batches
  - ...
- Way of application
  - Seed treatment
  - drench
  - foliar

## In vitro bioassays

- Hormone signaling response
- Seed germination
- Shoot growth response

## In planta assays

- Crop emergence
- Early development
- Shoot growth and physiology

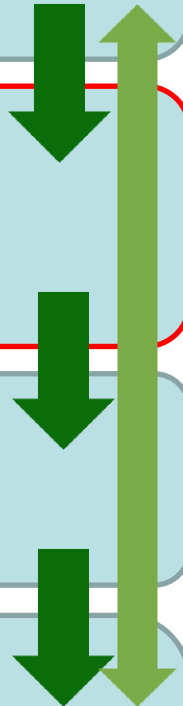
## Greenhouse/field experiments

- Yield parameters
- Plant physiology

## Metabolomic profiling

- Aminoacids
- Plant hormones
- Phenolic compounds
- Polyamines

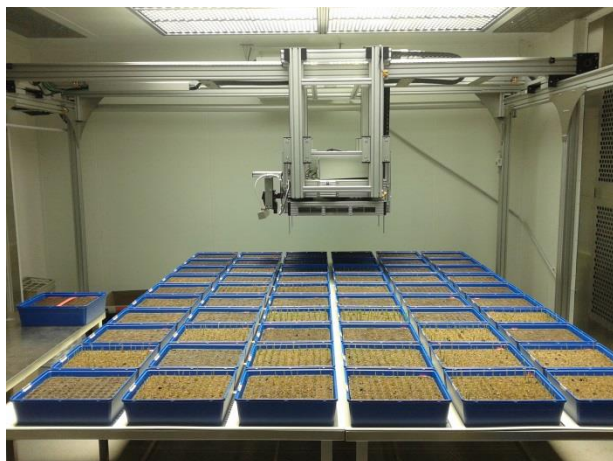
## Transcriptomics



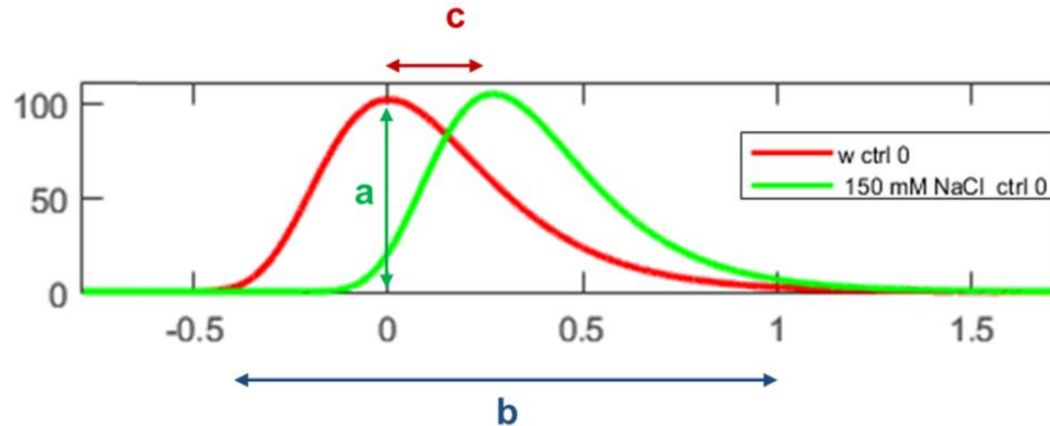
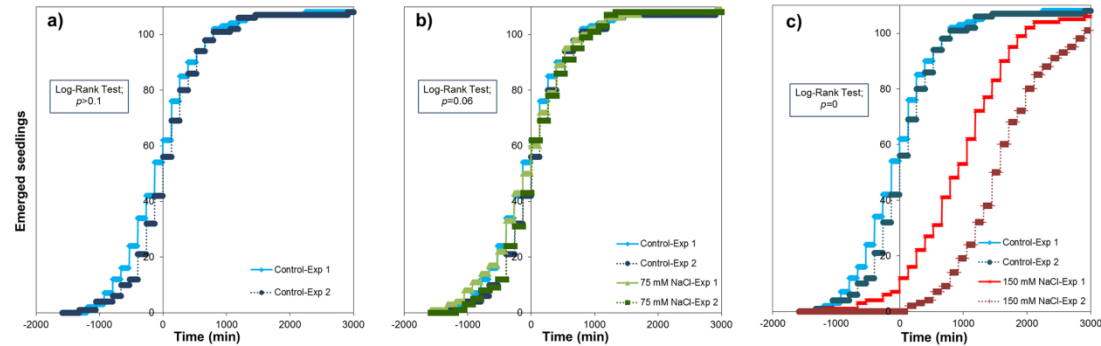
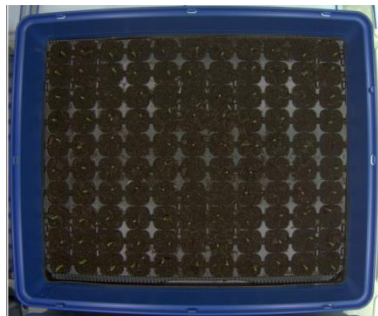
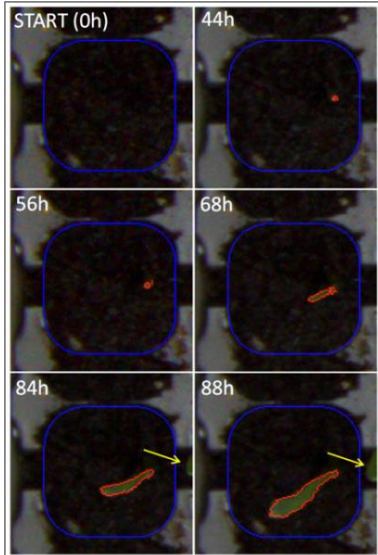
# In planta assays - crop emergence

- Testing of the emergence of crops (cereals, tomato, rapeseed) after application of various compounds and/or stress conditions (salt, cold, drought)
- Seed treatment
- 60 variants X 110 seeds
- Screening each 2 hours for approx. 7 days

Time/concentration-dependent response of a biostimulant effect in normal/stress conditions during the heterotrophic growth



# CroSeEm: An automated approach of high-throughput dynamic scoring of crop seedling emergence



Three traits analyzed:

- a) Total seedlings emerged
- b) Speed (homogeneity of population)
- c) Time lag

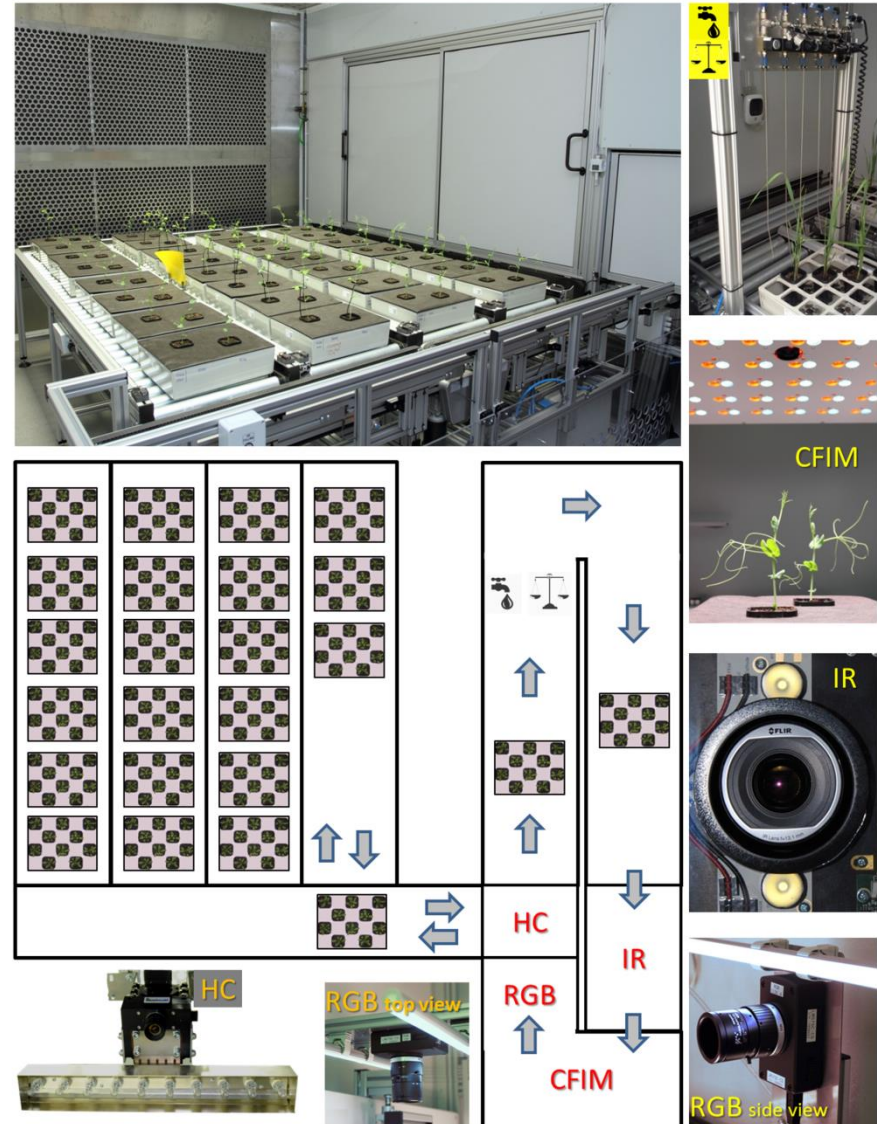
# Conveyor PlantScreen™ system

– integrative phenotyping



- three RGB cameras, FluorCam, thermoimaging, hyperspectral imaging (1000-2500 nm), acclimation cabinet, automatized pot weighing and watering
- capacity: 640 plants for top-view experiments, 64-32 plants for three-views experiments

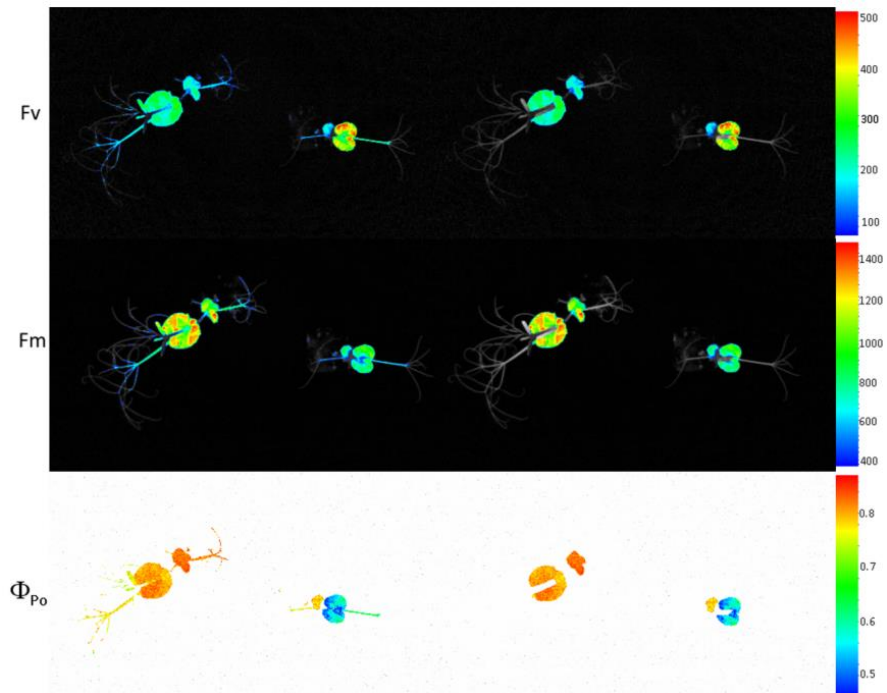
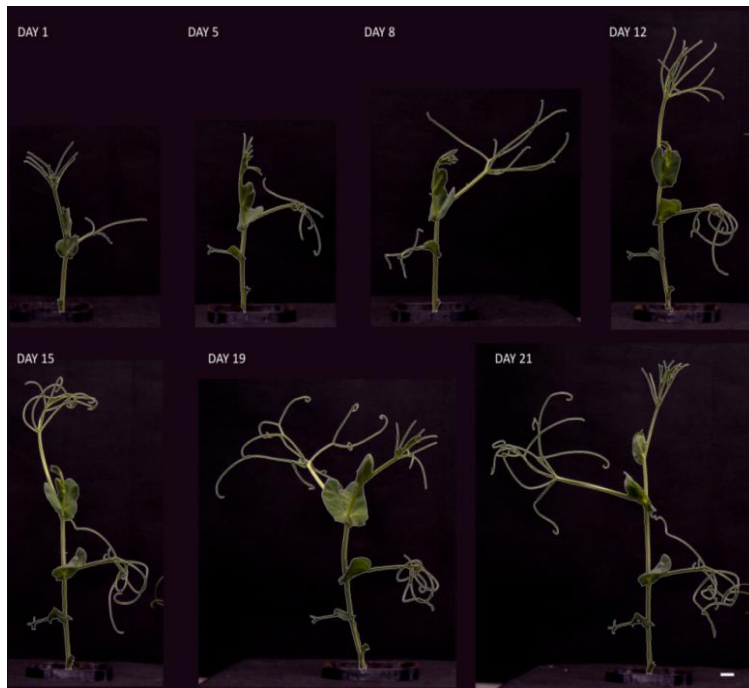
Humplík JF, Lazar D, Husičková A, Spíchal L (2015)  
Automated phenotyping of plant shoots using imaging  
methods for analysis of plant stress responses – a  
review. *Plant Methods*, 11:29.



# In planta assays – early development

- Crop stress response
- Growth and physiological traits, and strategies of cold tolerant varieties of pea

Humplík JF, Lazár D, Füst T, Husičková A, Hýbl M, Spíchal L (2015) Automated integrative high-throughput phenotyping of plant shoots: a case study of the cold-tolerance of pea (*Pisum sativum* L.). *Plant Methods*, 11:20.

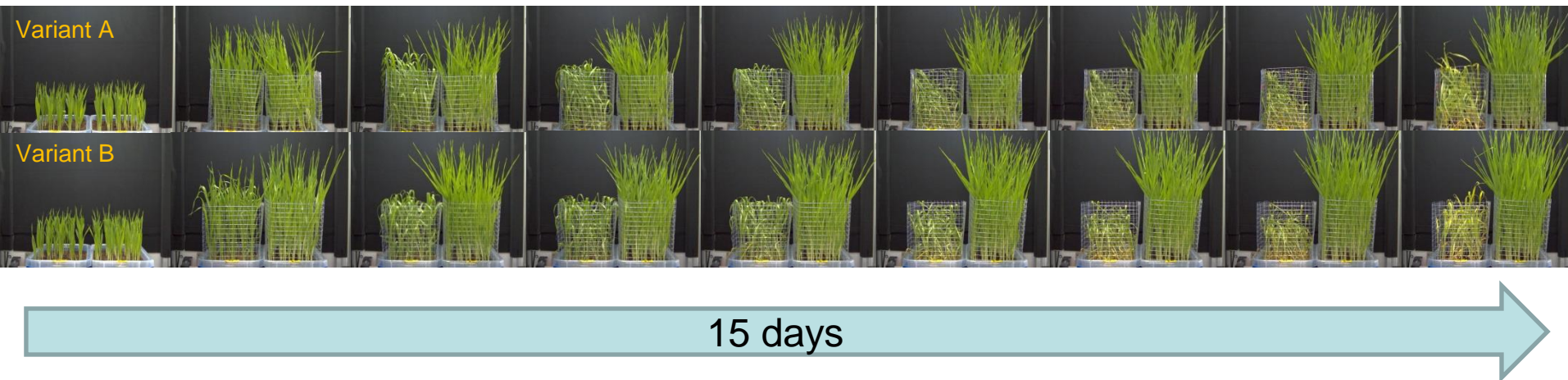


# In planta assays – early crop development

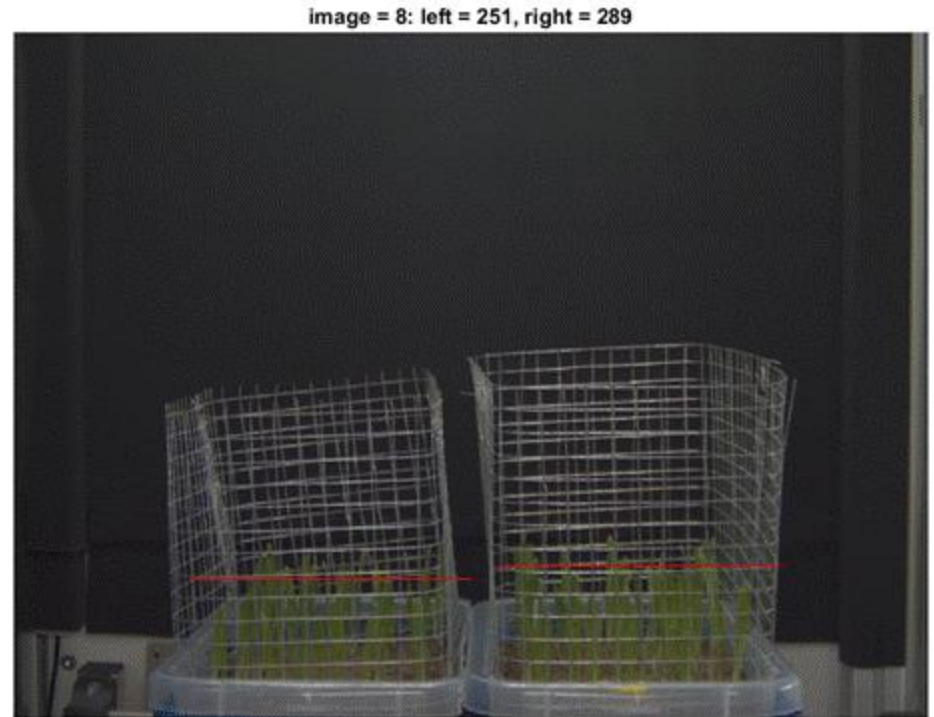
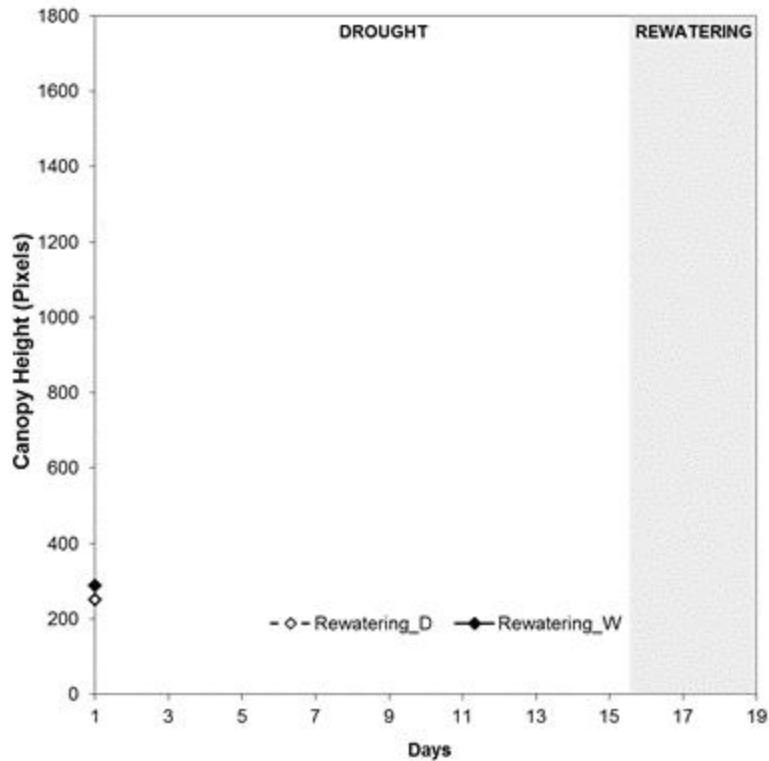
- Crop stress response
- Drought, salinity, cold
- Fast assay using RGB imaging



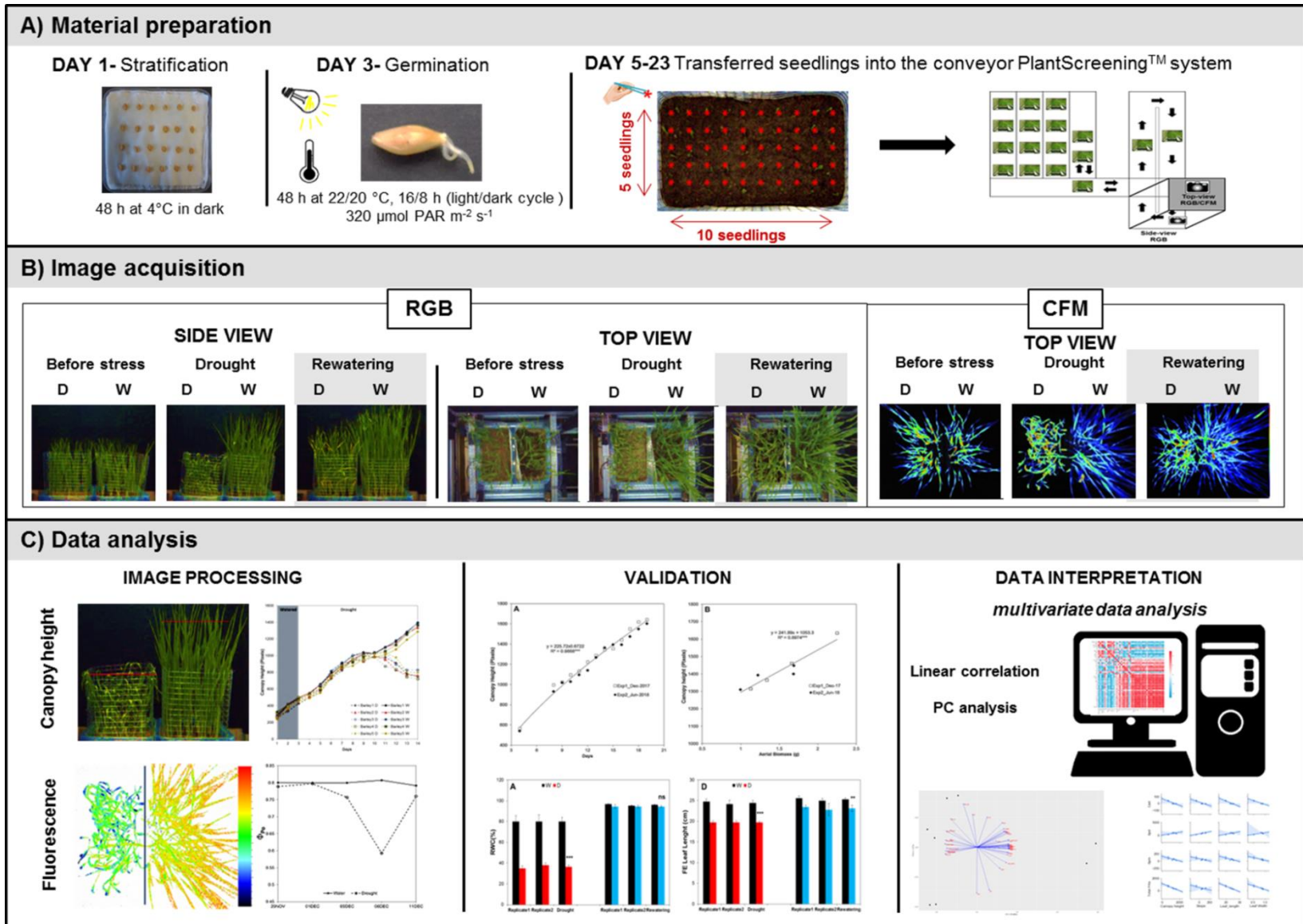
## Drought tolerance assay with crops



# Crop drought tolerance assay

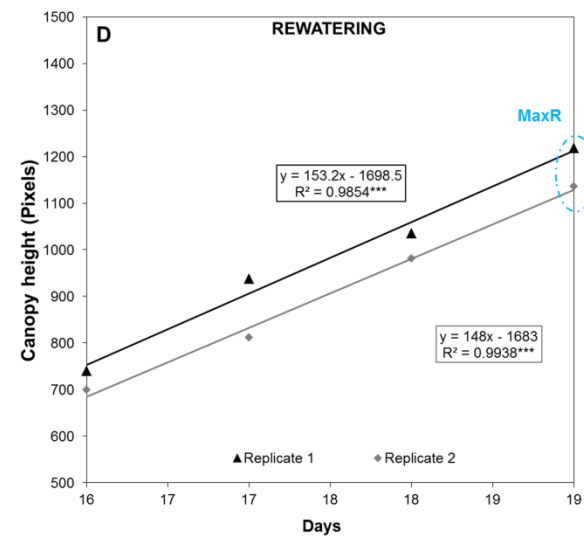
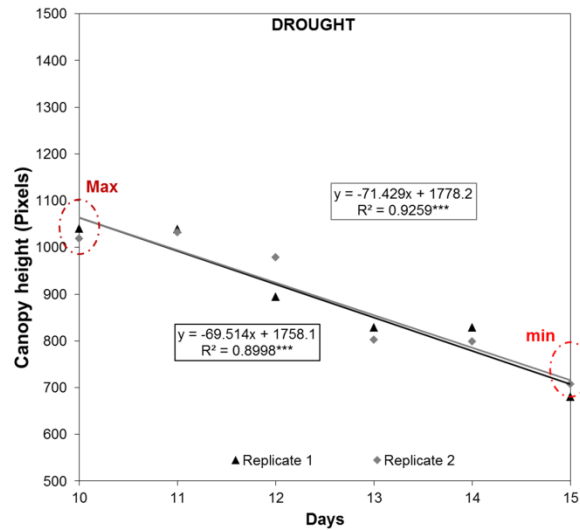
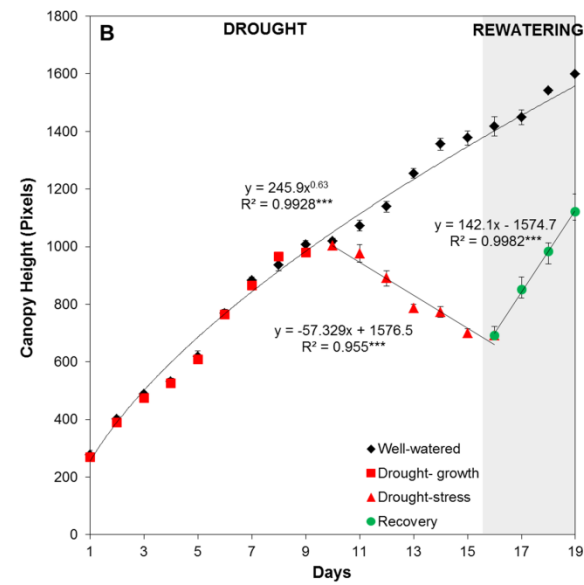
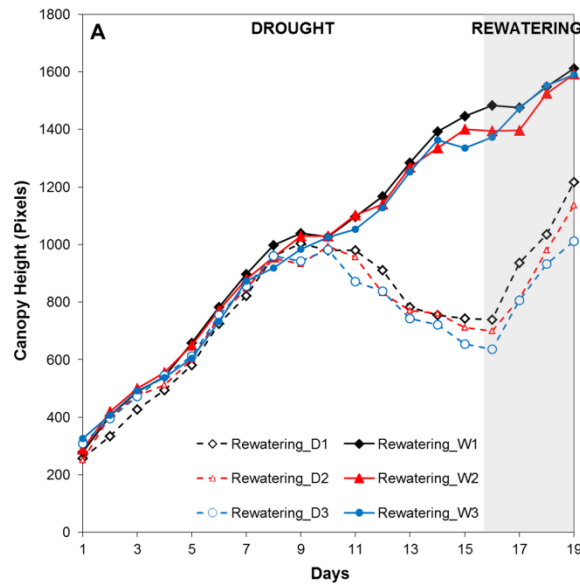


# Crop drought tolerance assay

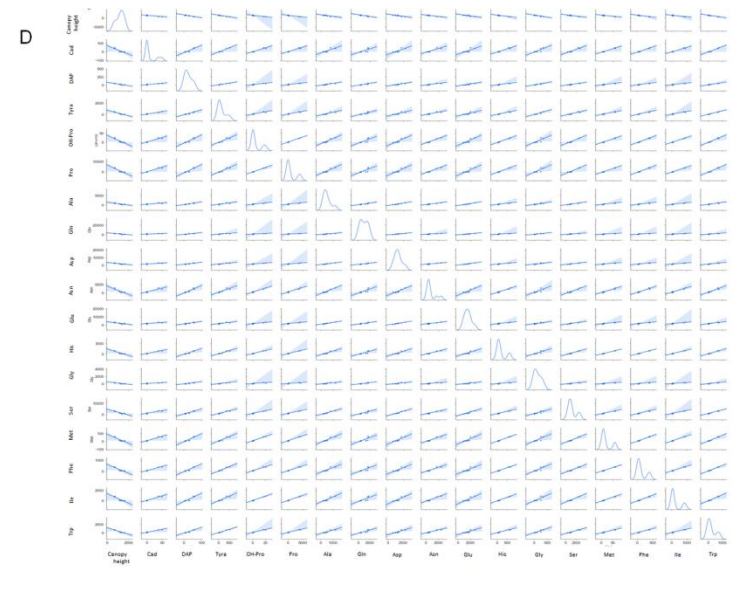
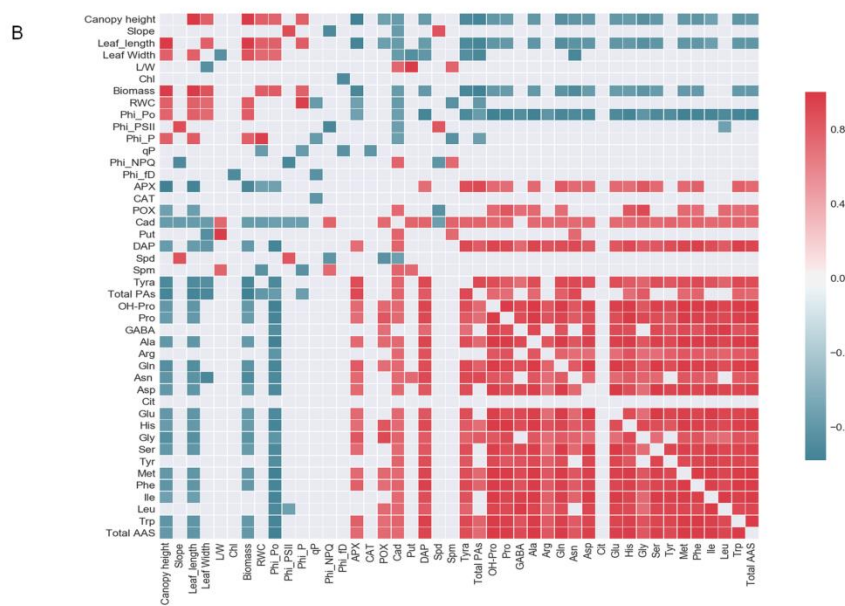
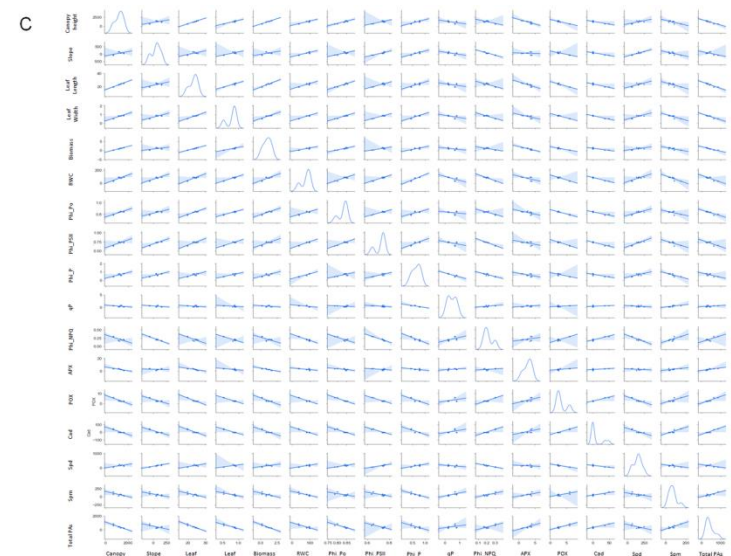
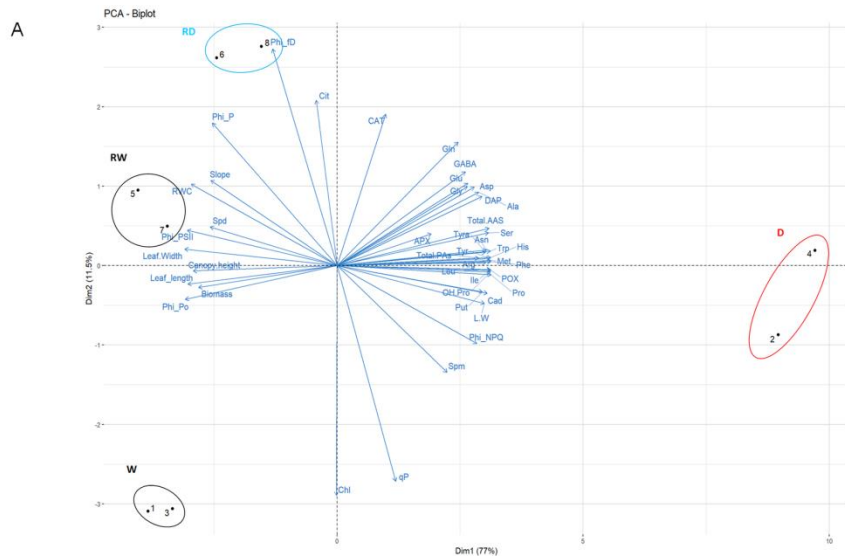




# Crop drought tolerance assay



# Crop drought tolerance assay



# Thanks to

---

- Nuria De Diego
- Jan F. Humplík
- Tomáš Fürst
- Lydia Ugena
- Cintia Marchetti
- Katka Podlešáková
- Adéla Hýlová
- Petr Kuczman
- Alexandra Husičková
- Dušan Lazár
- Jana Vašková

